

REMARKS

Upon entry of the instant amendment, Claims 1-20 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended to overcome an objection. The drawings have been amended to delete extraneous reference numerals. No new matter has been added.

The Drawings were objected to because of various extraneous reference numerals in FIGS. 3A, 5, and 6. FIGS. 3A and 5 have been amended to delete the extraneous reference numerals. Applicants respectfully submit, however, that reference numeral 628 in FIG. 6 is referred to at Page 10, line 15 of the Specification.

Claim 1 was objected to because of a typographical error. Claim 1 has been amended in accordance with the suggestion in Paragraph 2 of the Official Action. Thus, the basis for the objection is obviated.

Claims 1, 2, 8-10, and 16-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Beck et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,167,395 ("Beck"). In order for there to be anticipation, each and every element of the claimed invention must be present in a single prior reference. Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is not taught, suggested, or implied by Beck. As described in the Specification, one aspect of the present invention relates to handling of threaded messages. As described therein, messages may be "threaded" when forwarded with attached materials. For example, a voice message or e-mail message may be forwarded (or replied-to) with additional comments. Embodiments of the present invention identify to a user which messages are threaded and may also identify the degree of inclusiveness of the threading in a particular message.

In contrast, Beck does not appear to have anything to do with threaded messages, as generally recited in the claims at issue. More particularly, Beck relates to extracting information and, particularly, text, from call center communications or dialogs for a knowledge base. As used in Beck, a "dialog thread" appears to relate merely to particular sequences of communications, which are stored and have relevant data extracted therefrom. For example, at Column 4, lines


8-10, Beck states that "[I]t is desirable that threaded dialogs of such interactions be created and made available in a contact history...". Thus, the "threading" of Beck does not appear to relate to forwarding or replying to messages, or in general as "threading" is used in the claims-at-issue. As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections of the claims.

Claims 3-7, and 11-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Beck in view of Hicks, U.S. Patent No. 6,304,573 B1 ("Hicks"). Applicants respectfully submit that there are elements of the claimed invention that are not taught, suggested or implied by Beck or Hicks, either singly or in combination. Beck has been discussed above. Hicks relates merely to storing voice messages. Thus, like Beck, Hicks also fails to teach, suggest or imply threading or identifying threading as generally recited in the claims at issue. As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections of the claims.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully requested,

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MARKED UP CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A messaging system, comprising:
 - a memory for storing one or more messages, wherein some of said one or more messages are threaded within others of said one or more messages; and
 - a controller for identifying which of said one or more messages are threaded within said others.

Fig. 4

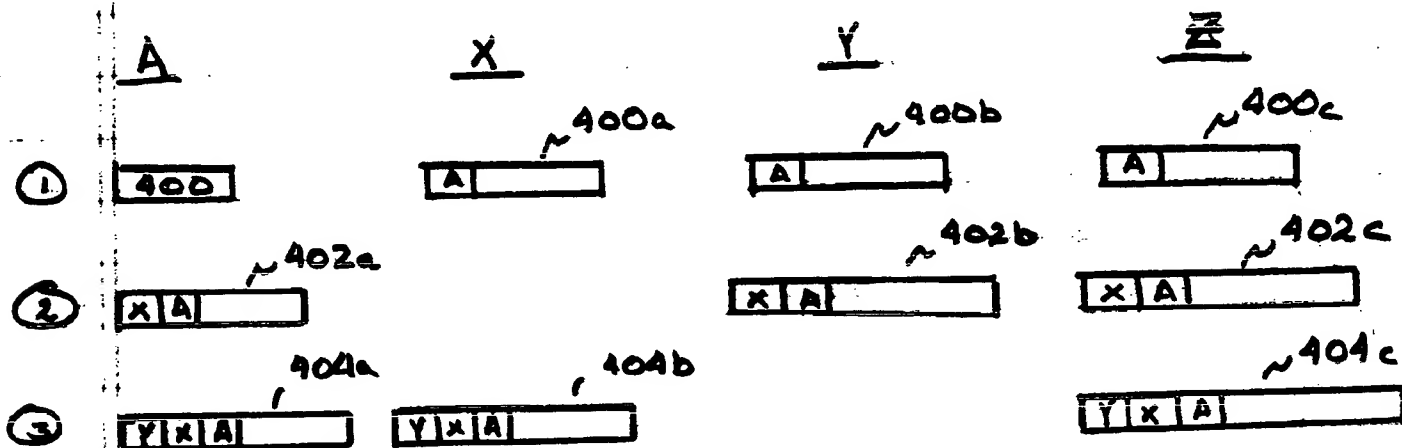


FIG. 5

#	Type	From	Date	Threaded In	F/P	Comp. Thr.
1		A		2, 3		
2		X		3		1
3		Y				1, 2
4						

FIG. 3A

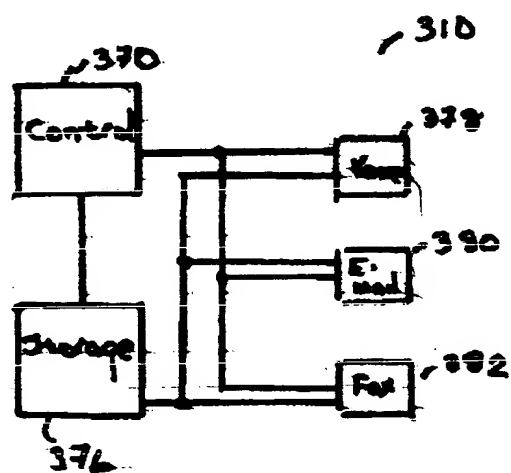
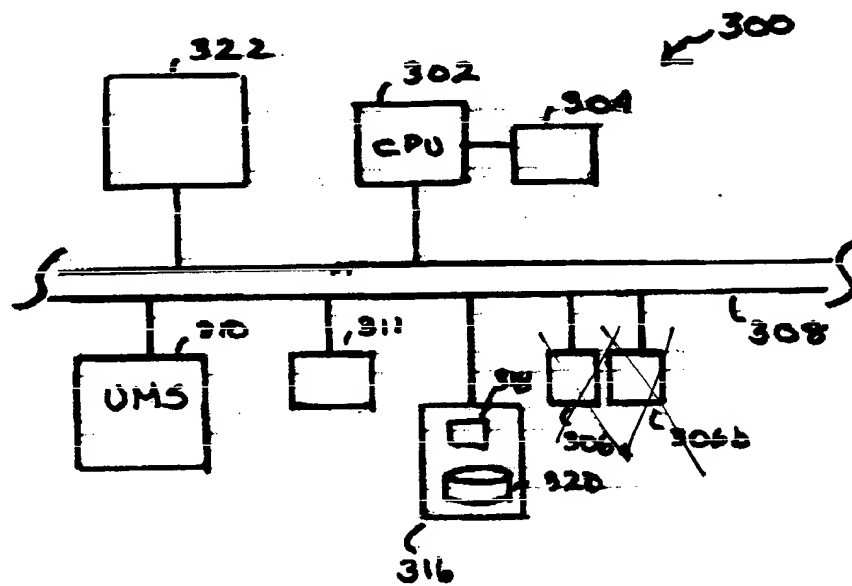


FIG. 3B